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(b) whether the Government have any such proposal before them for consideration ; and

(c) whether the Government propose to order all schools to be opened in the morning hours instead of from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.?

A.—(a) & (b) The resolution of the conference on the subject was as follows :—

"That the Department of Public Instruction be requested to issue a circular to managements of institutions urging on them the importance of providing physical instruction as far as possible to every pupil of the school for not less than half an hour a day and requesting them to provide the necessary accommodation and additional teaching power for the purpose."

The Director of Public Instruction has issued a circular to all managements of schools that time-tables should be so arranged as to allow not less than three physical training periods for pupils up to the high school grade and two for high school pupils.

(c) The existing rules allow for the hours of instruction in schools being either in the mornings, noons or evenings. It is open to the managements of schools to consider the local and climatic conditions of the place and adopt the hours suitable to those conditions. The Government do not consider it necessary to issue a general order fixing school hours.

Steps taken for the improvement of physical strength of students in schools.

*711-B Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what steps the Government have taken for the improvement of the physical strength of the students in schools ; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take any and if so what steps to teach love of mother land and national unity as part of their curriculum to students in schools?

A.—(a) (1) Physical education is a compulsory subject in elementary schools for boys. In secondary schools, provision for physical training and games is regarded as an essential part of the curriculum and as a precondition of recognition by the Educational Department.

(2) Provision is made in the Grant-in-Aid Code for the payment of grants to schools towards expenditure on—

(i) gymnasia and games ;
(ii) acquisition of lands for use as playgrounds ;
(iii) renting of playgrounds ;
(iv) improvements to playgrounds ;
(v) employment of physical training instructors.

(3) An agreement has been entered into with the Y.M.C.A. under which the Association places at the disposal of Government one-third of the time of its Physical Director in return for a monthly grant of Rs. 23.

(4) A full-time Assistant Physical Director and a Woman Specialist in Physical Education are employed in the department to promote physical education in boys' and girls' schools respectively.

Further particulars are given in paragraph 45 of the Report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency for the quinquennium 1921–22 to 1926–27. As the hon. Member is aware, two Committees have been appointed by Government to consider and report on the question of physical education in secondary and in elementary schools for boys.

(b) Moral instruction provides for the inculcation of patriotism and other items in the school curriculum such as History and Literature provide opportunities for teaching a love of country.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I ask whether there are any schools where patriotism is taught ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The answer depends upon the hon. Member's idea of patriotism."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" In the same sense in which the answer is given to this question."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I think that patriotism is taught in the schools."

Alleged withholding of leave salary of clerks in the Education department.

*712 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what were the cases in the clerical staff in the Educational department during the last three years, 1926–27, 1927–28 and 1928–29 (up to date) in which the last sentence of rule 17 in Annexure II to Part I, Fundamental Rules, was applied and leave withheld in spite of the production of a proper medical certificate ;

(b) what was the amount of leave pay in each case that was so withheld ; and

(c) what was the actual pay of the incumbent at the time per mensem ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information. They do not think that any useful purpose will be served by the collection of the statistics required.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government is prepared to reconsider his decision ' that it does not serve any useful purpose ' and whether he is aware that the collection of statistics is required in order to get an idea as to how much injustice has been done ? The rule appears to be an exceptional one."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" If the hon. Member will bring to the notice of the Government any injustice that is done, the Government will consider what can be done to alleviate the grievances."